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GW Covid-19 Intelligence Reports: April 9, 2020

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CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE

General

Title: Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) – updated April 6, 2020

Web Address: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>

Key Takeaway 1: Asymptomatic Spread - This CDC update reviews the current data on asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic infection and transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Viral transmission has been demonstrated in the pre-symptomatic incubation period of infection, but the exact degree of viral shedding that confers risk of transmission is not yet clear. Risk of transmission is thought to be greatest when patients are symptomatic since viral shedding is greatest at the time of symptom onset and declines over the course of several days to weeks. The proportion of viral transmission in the population due to asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic infection compared to symptomatic infection is unclear.

Key Takeaway 2: Medication -- use of ACE inhibitors, AR Blockers and NSAIDS - There are no data to suggest a link between ACE inhibitors or ARBs with worse COVID-19 outcomes. The American Heart Association (AHA), the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA), and the American College of Cardiology (ACC) released a statement recommending continuation of these drugs for patients already receiving them for heart failure, hypertension, or ischemic heart disease. Similarly, there are no data to support withholding NSAIDS.

Key Takeaway 3: Reinfection - There are no data concerning the possibility of re-infection with SARS-CoV-2 after recovery from COVID-19. Clinical recovery has been correlated with the detection of IgM and IgG antibodies which signal the development of immunity. The clinical effect of that immunity is unclear.

Title: JAMA Viewpoint: The COVID-19 Pandemic in the USA Clinical Update

Web Address: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2764366>

Key Takeaway: This review updates current knowledge about topics such as why case-fatality rates vary so much by country and demographic variables in the US, the evolving recommendations about public use of face-masks, if Covid-19 virus transmission is primarily droplet or aerosolized and when social distancing measures might be lifted. April 6, 2020.

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Therapeutics

Title: Considerations for drug interaction on QTc in Exploratory Covid-19 Treatment

Web Address: <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.047521>

Key Takeaway: Joint Statement by American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology. This letter recommends specific monitoring to minimize risk of adverse drug reaction when using chloroquine-based treatments for Covid-19 infection. April 8, 2020

Title: Effectiveness of convalescent plasma therapy in severe COVID-19 patients

Web Address: <https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/04/02/2004168117>

Key Takeaway: This is a report on the immunologic and clinical endpoints of 10 patients with severe Covid-19 infection who were treated with convalescent plasma derived from recently recovered donors. April 6, 2020.

Critical Care

Title: With ventilators running out, doctors say the machines are overused for Covid-19

Web Address:

https://www.statnews.com/2020/04/08/doctors-say-ventilators-overused-for-covid-19/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=9eaf99b9bb-Daily+Recap&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-9eaf99b9bb-149678261

Key Takeaway: This is an interesting article by a science reporter about the growing uncertainty of the pulmonary pathophysiology of severe Covid-19 infection and how to best treat it.

Title: High-Dose Intravenous Immunoglobulin as a Therapeutic Option for Deteriorating Patients With Coronavirus Disease 2019

Website: <https://academic.oup.com/ofid/article/7/3/ofaa102/5810740>

Key Takeaway: This case series reports 3 patients with severe COVID-19 who received high-dose intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) with satisfactory recovery. With no definite effective treatments for this novel pathogen, based on these observations high-dose IVIg may be considered for clinical trials or compassionate use in deteriorating patients infected with COVID-19 respiratory failure. March 21, 2020

Ob/Gyn

Title: Interim Considerations for Infection Prevention and Control of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Inpatient Obstetric Healthcare Settings

Web Address: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/inpatient-obstetric-healthcare-guidance.html>

Key Takeaway: This is an April 4, 2020 update of CDC Guidance related to:

- Visitors and essential support persons to pregnant women who have known or suspected COVID-19 infection
- Prioritized testing of pregnant women with suspected COVID-19 at admission or who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during admission
- Testing of infants with suspected COVID-19 and isolation from other healthy infants
- Determination of whether to keep a mother with known or suspected COVID-19 and her infant together or separated after birth on a case-by-case basis

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Title: CDC Guidance – Mitigate Health Care Personnel Staffing Shortages

Web address: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html>

Key Takeaway: Guidance for health care system managers on two topics: (1) Contingency Capacity Strategies to Mitigate Staffing Shortages and (2) Crisis Capacity Strategies to Mitigate Staffing Shortages. April 6, 2020

Title: CDC - Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment

Web address: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

Key Takeaway: Guidance for health care system managers. April 3, 2020

Title: Interim Additional Guidance for Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings: Responding to Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States

Web address: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ambulatory-care-settings.html>

Key Takeaway: This guidance addresses how to:

- Minimize disease transmission to patients, healthcare personnel (HCP) and others
- Identify persons with presumptive COVID-19 disease and implement a triage procedure to assign appropriate levels of care
- Reduce negative impacts on emergency department and hospital bed capacity and
- Maximize the efficiency of personal protective equipment (PPE) utilization across the community health system while protecting healthcare personnel.

April 7, 2020

Title: American Association of Nurse Attorney’s POSITION ON COVID-19

Web address: <https://www.taana.org/resources/positions/covid19-2020.pdf>

Key Takeaway: Policy position advocating for Nurses and other Healthcare Professionals licensed throughout the United States of America with focus on PPE and self-protection of HCW. April 2, 2020

Title: NEJM Perspective: Ensuring and Sustaining a Pandemic Workforce

Web address: https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006376?query=featured_home

Key Takeaway: GW’s Institute for Health Workforce Equity and others outlining ways to support and sustain the health workforce: legal/licensing; the role of payers; potential roles for students, retirees and cross-discipline health care workers; targeted education/reeducation; and regional relocation to meet workforce needs.

Title: Effectiveness of Surgical and Cotton Masks in Blocking SARS–CoV-2: A Controlled Comparison in 4 Patients

Website: <https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2764367/effectiveness-surgical-cotton-masks-blocking-sars-cov-2-controlled-comparison>

Key takeaway: Surgical masks do not protect the spread of the virus during coughing/Valsalva. The outside of the mask can be contaminated with virus too.

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EPIDEMIOLOGY and PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

Title: What We Need to Understand About Asymptomatic Carriers

Web address: <https://www.propublica.org/article/what-we-need-to-understand-about-asymptomatic-carriers-if-were-going-to-beat-coronavirus>

Key Takeaway: A thoughtful article about the importance of disease control for asymptomatic carriers of Covid-19.

Title: Respiratory virus shedding in exhaled breath and efficacy of face masks, April 3, 2020

Web address: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0843-2>

Key Takeaway: A study of 246 individuals with seasonal respiratory virus infections randomized to wear or not wear a surgical face mask showed that masks can significantly reduce detection of coronavirus and influenza virus in exhaled breath and may help interrupt virus transmission.

Title: Is the coronavirus airborne? Experts can't agree, April 2, 2020

Web address: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00974-w>

Key Takeaway: A scientific brief posted to its website on March 27 (and updated on March 29, see below) reports that the World Health Organization said that there is not sufficient evidence to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is airborne, except in a handful of medical contexts, such as when intubating an infected patient. Experts that work on airborne respiratory illnesses and aerosols say that gathering unequivocal evidence for airborne transmission could take years and cost lives.

Title: WHO – Modes of Transmission of virus causing Covid-19: Implication for IPC precaution recommendations, March 29, 2020

Web address: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/modes-of-transmission-of-virus-causing-covid-19-implications-for-ipc-precaution-recommendations>

Key Takeaway: This Scientific Brief outlines the position, based on the available evidence, that WHO continues to recommend droplet and contact precautions for those people caring for COVID-19 patients. WHO continues to recommend airborne precautions for circumstances and settings in which aerosol generating procedures and support treatment are performed, according to risk assessment.

Title: Washington Post - The coronavirus is infecting and killing black Americans at an alarmingly high rate – April 7, 2020

Web address: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/04/07/coronavirus-is-infecting-killing-black-americans-an-alarmingly-high-rate-post-analysis-shows/?arc404=true>

Key Takeaway: Report of the alarming trend of excess Covid-19 mortality among African Americans.

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Title: Hospitalization Rates and Characteristics of Patients Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 — COVID-NET, 14 States, March 1–30, 2020

Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e3.htm>

Key Takeaway: Updated April 8, 2020 this documents the demographics of persons hospitalized with Covid-19 infection in the US.

Title: The Coronavirus epidemic curve is already flattening in New York City

Website: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w26917>

Key takeaway: There appears to be sufficient evidence to conclude that the curve in New York City is indeed flattening. The purpose of this report is to set forth the evidence for – and against – this preliminary but potentially important conclusion. Having examined the evidence, we then inquire: if the curve is indeed flattening, do we know what caused it to level off?

RESOURCES: DECISION-SUPPORT TOOLS, CALCULATORS, TREATMENT ALGORITHMS

Title: American Association of Medical Colleges – Covid-19 Clinical Guidance Repository

Web address: www.aamc.org/covid19guidance

Key Takeaway: The AAMC COVID-19 Clinical Guidance Repository includes COVID-19 treatment and management guidance from academic medical centers (AMCs) to serve as a resource for hospitals and clinicians.